

Atty. Docket No.
006417.00002

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Patent Of: Michael A. Poteet

Examiner: Charles Goodman

U.S. Pat. App. No.: 10/788,877

Group Art Unit: 3724

Filed: February 27, 2004

For: Culinary Implement With
Interchangeable Elements

REPLY TO EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450,
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant respectfully notes that the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, set forth in the Notice of Allowability dated October 6, 2006, is understood to be predicated upon consideration of each of the claims as a whole, and not upon any specific element or elements of the claims. Applicant courteously points out that this understanding is in accordance with decisions of the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. See *In re Dillon*, 919 F.2d 688, 16 USPQ2d 1897, at 1902 (Fed. Cir. 1990)(*in banc*), *Symbol Technologies, Inc. v. Opticon, Inc.*, 935 F.2d 1569, 19 USPQ2d 1241 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

If the Examiner believes that Applicant's understanding is incorrect and the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance are not predicated upon consideration of each claim as a whole, the

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Examiner is respectfully requested to reply to the undersigned in writing in that regard.

Respectfully submitted,

By: s/Thomas L. Evans/s
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